



The Embassy in action

- Welcome from the Ambassador (p.1)
- The new Swiss Kuwaiti Business Platform (p.2)
- Activities over the past year (p.3)

Culture & education

- Introducing 'Leading House MENA' for research collaborations (p.5)
- Study in Switzerland: 'Federal Commission scholarships for foreign students' (p. 5)

Consular affairs

- Regional Consular Centre (p.5)
- SwissInTouch (p.6)
- Travel Admin App (p.6)
- Organisation of the Swiss Abroad (p.6)

Dear Swiss citizens and friends of Switzerland,

It has been a great pleasure to join the Swiss Embassy here in Kuwait in June '22. My family and I were seised by the hospitality and the warmth of the Kuwaiti people. Beyond their inherently generous nature, we were delighted to see the strong and heartfelt connection Kuwait and so many of its people have to Switzerland, whether it be as a regular holiday destination, studying, owning a house, or the sheer mesmerism with its landscapes. It must be said, however, that this closeness is of no surprise considering the almost four generations of people-to-people relations between our two countries, and the fifty-seven years of diplomatic relations. As ambassador, it is my intention to contribute to our fruitful relationship in as many ways possible. In fact, this is reflected in the wide array of activities that our Embassy has undertaken over the past year and a half, ranging e.g. from fostering business cooperations, to culture and tourism. I would particularly like to draw your attention to our newly launched Swiss Kuwaiti Business Platform (SKBP), which seeks bolster economic relations between our two countries, bringing together business people from both sides. I am

confident that this dynamism of our embassy has been able to involve many members of the Swiss community in the country. It is also with your involvement that we can continue to strengthen this positive energy, and I am grateful for your support in our mutual endeavours. Through this first edition of Embassy newsletter, I invite you to discover more of the rich work of the Embassy and new opportunities for the Swiss and Kuwaitis. On this note, I wish you all a happy reading.

Yours sincerely,
Tiziano Balmelli



Ambassador Tiziano Balmelli (centre right) inaugurating the SKBP. Left: Eslam Bisar. Right: HE Sadiq Marafi, Faisal Mutawa.

THE EMBASSY IN ACTION



Right to left: Ambassador Tiziano Balmelli, Eslam Bikar (co-Chair of the SKBP & General Manager at SIKA), Faisal Mutawa (co-Chair of the SKBP & Chairman and Managing Director of Ali Abdulwahab Al Mutawa Commercial Co).

Inaugurating the new Swiss Kuwaiti Business Platform:

We would like to see more bilateral economic cooperation and exchanges. To that end, the Embassy launched the Swiss Kuwaiti Business Platform (SKBP) at the ambassador's residence. Co-Chaired by Mr. Faisal Mutawa - Chairman and Managing Director of Ali Abdulwahab Al Mutawa Commercial Co (AAW) and Mr. Eslam Bisar - Managing Director of SIKA, the SKBP aims to foster new partnerships and new economic opportunities, and to strengthen the good bilateral relations

Advancing the Global Refugee Forum (GRF):

Switzerland, in its commitment to humanitarianism, will be hosting the 2nd GRF in Geneva between the 13-15/12. In the run up, the Swiss Embassy, along with the UNHCR Representation in Kuwait, organised a discussion on the subject of refugees. Moderated by Arafat Jamal - GRF coordinator who flew in from Geneva especially for this occasion, the event was attended by some 70 people. The relevance of this initiative was marked by the presence of several high-level representatives, including many ambassadors from all continents, as well as the representatives of State bodies, such as the Kuwait Fund for Arab Economic Development, UN agencies present in Kuwait and local charity

between Switzerland and Kuwait. In addition to the two Co-Chairs, the board of the platform currently consists of representatives from Nestlé Kuwait, Roche Diagnostics Kuwait, Vontobel Bank Switzerland and Mr. Majed Al Ajeel (Ex. Chairman Burgan), as well as Mr. Tiziano Balmelli (Ambassador of Switzerland). Around 80 people attended this evening, including H.E. Sadiq Marafi, Assistant Minister of Foreign Affairs for Europe and H.E. Sheikh Mubarak A. M. Al-Sabah (Action Group), reflecting the truly opportune significance of this platform. Want to become a member or find out more? Feel free to reach out using the email below (see page 7)!



17/02 2023 - Swiss Minister of Foreign Affairs Ignazio Cassis meets his Kuwaiti counterpart, Sheikh Salem Abdullah Al-Jaber Al-Sabah in the sidelines of the Munich Security Conference. Discussions emphasised the commitment to peace, dialogue and international law.

organisations. The Ministry of Foreign Affairs was also represented by H.E. Abdul Aziz Al-Jarallah, Assistant Foreign Minister and Director for International Organisations.

A summary of key events over the past year: Over the past year, our Embassy has hosted a large number of activities reinforcing the already strong bonds

Opportunities for Swiss Enterprises

Two events were hosted in cooperation with the German Business Council, an association bringing together the business communities from Germany, Switzerland, Austria, and Lichtenstein. On the first occasion in September 2022, Waleed Roy, Head of the Office of Scientific and Technological Partnerships and Agreements at the Kuwait Institute for Scientific Research (KISR), presented the institution's many projects in the fields of oil, food security and the environment. During the second occasion, hosted on the 24/09/23, the residence of the Swiss Embassy welcomed Dr. Issam Al-Tawani, a member of the Kuwaiti Economics Society and the Kuwaiti Islamic Economic Society, who spoke of the challenges Kuwait must face if it is to escape economic stagnation. Both of these occasions provided the opportunity for Swiss companies to exchange relevant expertise and insights.

Naturally, a session was dedicated to the iconic Swiss clocks and Swiss banks with a fun interactive luxury clockwork event hosted at the Swiss Residence together with Barclay Bank Geneva in March this year. During this occasion, attendees had the opportunity to consult directly and gain professional insights from a Swiss watchmaker, who flew to Kuwait especially for this occasion. Participants had the opportunity to learn

between the two countries, enhancing economic opportunities for Swiss enterprises, promoting Swiss 'green solutions', tourism and culture.

how to dismantle and reassemble the workings of a mechanical watch!



Swiss watchmaker (right) who flew in from Switzerland especially for this event showing the process of Swiss-precision watch-making to one of our distinguished guests.

In coordination with Switzerland Global-Enterprise S-GE, the Swiss Residence hosted an information and exchange event with the Swiss company Pharmalys Laboratoires, specialised in the production of milk powder. Ambassador Balmelli took the opportunity to highlight the role of the many private Swiss companies that invest massively in research, helping to make our country a world leader in innovation.

Swiss Green Solutions for Food Security in Kuwait

On 01/02/23, the Kuwaiti company Green Life GCC officially inaugurated its agricultural production site, which uses aeroponic technology developed by the Swiss company CleanGreens Solutions SA. The aim of this technology is to achieve high quality, mass production above ground, using minimal water, enriched with nutrients and without pesticides. It is therefore relevant to Kuwait's 'Vision 2035' strategy, which also aims to ensure the country's food security. The salads grown with this technology were then given exclusive preview at the Swiss residence on 19/03/23, attended by over 80 people. These salads, which contribute to food security, are produced without



Adel Al-Shamali (left), Chairman of Green Life GCC, with Ambassador Tiziano Balmelli (right) his wife, Iveta, and son Leonardo.

pesticides and using a minimum amount of water, as well as being particularly tasty. It provided an important

opportunity to remind of Switzerland's commitment to sustainability.

Money out of Garbage thanks to Swiss Technology?



21/06/23 - The Swiss Residence hosted an evening of debate and networking with Nicolas Chalhoub (NC), Vice-President of the Swiss company "Tyre Recycling Solutions S.A." (TRS). This event, organised with the GBCK, highlighted the specific features of these technologies that reconcile environmental protection and financial profit, without doubt the best equation for finding solutions to waste management. In Kuwait, 50 million used tyres are a real environmental problem, particularly because of the frequent fires, and are waiting to be processed.

Tourism and Culture

On 31/01/23, the Swiss ambassador contributed to a tourism promotion event organised by Switzerland Tourism that brought together more than a hundred operators from the sector in Kuwait, giving them the opportunity to interact with colleagues from Switzerland (have a look on [Instagram!](#)).

reconstruct the story of this plate, the car and its owner who ventured on a 'road-trip' from Kuwait to Geneva probably some fifty years ago. The post has generated a lot of positive public interest: it highlights the love that many Kuwaitis have had for our country since the 1930s. Within two hours, someone posted a photo on Instagram of the second number plate in the set, which is located at their home.



Ambassador Balmelli (left) with Hussein Ashkanani during a visit to Mr. Ashkanani's private museum in Jaber Al Ali. Mr. Ashkanani holds an antique Kuwaiti car plate identical to the one the ambassador acquired in Ticino.

A number plate tells us of an epic history of Swiss Kuwaiti relations - last summer, the Instagram profile of the Al-Jarida newspaper received a large number of positive comments when it published a photo and text from Lugano, with Ambassador Balmelli displaying an old Kuwaiti car number plate acquired in Switzerland at a public auction. We invited the public to help us



Deputy Head of Mission, Alexandre Guyot, delivers a speech for the Francophonie month.

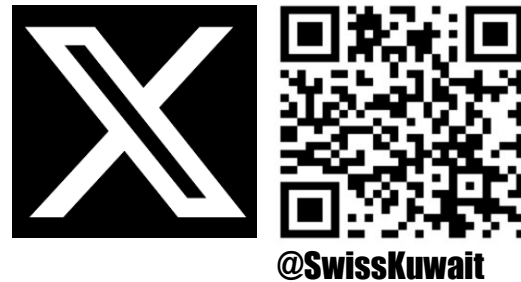
Celebrating the Francophonie Month in March, the Embassy presented the film Last Dance by Swiss director Delphine Lehericéy, which won the Audience Award at the last Locarno Festival. Three short films by Switzerland Tourism preceded the screening at the residence in front of a diverse audience of around fifty people. The Embassy also had a stand at the traditional French-language bazaar, which this year attracted a very large audience in the famous Shaheed Park.

We are also on social media!

Join our rapidly growing following now on Instagram and on X to get in-real-time updates of all our activities



and to stay tuned of upcoming opportunities with Switzerland!



CULTURE & EDUCATION

Leading House MENA: promoting scientific collaboration between Switzerland and Kuwait

The Swiss State Secretariat for Education, Research and Innovation (SERI) commissioned the University of Applied Sciences and Arts Western Switzerland (HES-SO) as the Leading House (LH) for the Middle East and North Africa (MENA) region. Its overall goal is to develop scientific collaborations between Switzerland and the MENA region, including Kuwait and regularly provides new [opportunities](#) for research collaborations. The Leading House MENA has three strategic goals:

- Expand research cooperation between Switzerland and MENA countries with funding instruments designed according to the interests of the Swiss research community;
- Increase of knowledge on countries with a high development potential among the Swiss research community through the availability of contacts and know-how;
- Increase the representation of interests of the Swiss research community towards potential partners in the region.

Research Partnership Grant 'Federal Commission for scholarships for foreign students'

Every year, the Swiss Confederation awards Swiss Government Excellence Scholarships for Foreign Scholars and Artists to promote international exchange and research cooperation between Switzerland and

over 180 other countries. They are aimed at young professional researchers from abroad who have completed a master's degree or PhD and at foreign artists holding a bachelor's degree. [Recipients are selected](#) by the awarding body, the Federal Commission for Scholarships for Foreign Students (FCS).

CONSULAR AFFAIRS

Regional Consular Centre (RCC) in Doha

The RCC within the Embassy of Switzerland in Doha/Qatar handles all consular services (legalisations,

passports etc.) for Swiss citizens in the GCC, including Kuwait. Contact information below.

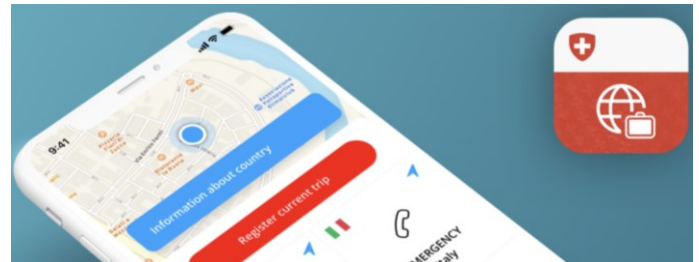
SwissInTouch, Switzerland in your pocket



This web application enables the Swiss abroad to receive and find important information from their official representation, the various federal offices and other institutional partners in a single, state-of-the-art platform. The application complements existing communication platforms, such as the consular services, the FDFA's virtual counter and Travel Admin, the companion for Swiss travelers. No registration is required. However, you will need to create an account to access certain additional functions.

Travel safely with the Travel Admin App

The Travel Admin app provides ideal support in preparing a trip. The app also offers useful information and services for people travelling, not only in case of a crisis. But if the crisis does occur, the app can become a particularly valuable tool: the app has proven its worth, for example, in the context of the coronavirus crisis in organising the return journey of blocked Swiss travelers. More information [here](#).



FDFA services and useful information at the touch of a finger, both before and during the journey: Travel Admin.

Organisation of the Swiss Abroad (OSA)

The Organisation of the Swiss Abroad has represented the overall interest of Swiss nationals abroad in Switzerland since 1916, and is recognised by the authorities as the mouthpiece of the 'Fifth Switzerland'. The OSA provides online information and personal advice to Swiss nationals living abroad and publishes the 'Swiss Review' magazine. The OSA also provides holiday programmes and educational/training courses for young Swiss nationals.



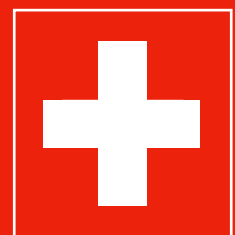
CONTACT

Embassy

Embassy of Switzerland in Kuwait,
Qortuba, Block 2, Street 1,
Villa 122
Kuwait
+965 25 34 91 72 | [email](#) | [website](#)

Consular Affairs

Embassy of Switzerland in Doha,
Zone 66, Wadi al-Humra Street 807
Villa 60, Doha
Qatar
+974 4020 3402 | [visa_email](#) | [general](#)



Switzerland

Follow us on [X](#)
Follow us on [Instagram](#)